

IÑUPIAT COMMUNITY of the ARCTIC SLOPE

an IRA Regional Tribal Government

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Comment on Northeast National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska Amended Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Amended IAP/EIS; amendment) for lands within the North Slope Borough, Alaska, by Janice Meadows for Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS).

August 12, 2004

1 My name is Janice Meadows, presently Executive Director of ICAS. I've lived here in Barrow most of my life. From the time that I heard my father, Wyman T. Panigeo, say there was a lot of oil on our lands, it never occurred to me that we'd be here discussing/meeting about it now. This was when I was a child just over 12 years old.

2 I grew up going to camp to subsist for fish, caribou, and water fowl. My grandfather taught my father to hunt whales, seals, walrus, etc., and these subsistence activities have been passed on to younger generations.

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Alternatives To what degree do the Inupiaq people have to tell the Federal Government that we want to **protect** our lands? It's been stated over and over again that the stipulations set in 1998 should not be changed. We want to protect our lands because if we do not speak out for protection of the lands from where we get our food, we would not be caretakers. The Inupiaq people are stewards of our lands and we want our generations that follow to subsist as we have.

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Alternatives With **No Action Alternative**, we are **COMPROMISING** our livelihood and subsistence way of life so that there will be oil and gas development that we can live with. With this alternative, we are making sure that the Inupiaq people will continue to subsist with no long-term **detriment** to our resources. Please take notice that Teshekpuk Lake is the core habitat of what we subsist on. This area supports the caribou, fish, and waterfowl habitats. If this area is disturbed, you have no idea what **detrimental effects** it will have on our resources in the long run.

5 In closing, No Action Alternative was a long process and it reflects our people's values and traditions. Keep it that way.